Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a tissue repair protein, comprising ~~and comprises~~ a nucleotide sequence which hybridises to a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 under high stringency conditions, wherein the high stringency conditions comprise 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the nucleic acid molecule is from a mammal.

4. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claim~~ claim 3 wherein the mammal is a human.

5. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing orofacial clefting in a patient, comprising detecting expression of a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments or variants of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, in selected target tissues(s), wherein detecting decreased expression of SEQ ID NO: 1 indicates that the subject has orofacial clefting.

6. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing orofacial clefting in patients suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from orofacial clefting, comprising detecting a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments or variants of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein detecting a mutation in SEQ ID NO: 1 indicates that the subject has orofacial clefting.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A delivery vehicle comprising the nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claim~~ claim 1 ~~and/or the polypeptide of Claim 7~~, which is in the form of a suspension.

9. (currently amended) The delivery vehicle of ~~Claim~~ claim 8, wherein the delivery vehicle is adapted to deliver the nucleic acid molecule ~~or polypeptide~~ to a selected tissue.

10. - 16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the nucleic acid of ~~Claim~~ claim 1 ~~and/or the protein of Claim 7~~.

18. - 35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a tissue repair protein comprising, ~~the nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of~~:

(a) DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:39;

(b) nucleic acids which hybridize to DNA of (a) above under stringent conditions, wherein the stringent conditions comprise 1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C; and

(c) nucleic acids which differ from the DNA of (a) or (b) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, and which encode a tissue repair protein encoded by the DNA of (a) or (b) above.

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least 75% identity to a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:~~39~~ 1.

39. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 38, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least 85% identity to a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:~~39~~ 1.

40. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 38, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least 95% identity to a nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:~~39~~ 1.

41. - 42. (canceled)

43. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the tissue repair protein is 733 amino acids in length.

44. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or 3.

45. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 39.

47. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a tissue repair protein, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 39.

48. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a tissue repair protein, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.